

Control No. 490931
ASC-X-81

22 June 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Secretariat, Economic Intelligence Committee

FROM : Secretary, EIC Subcommittee on Agriculture

SUBJECT : EIC Subcommittee on Agriculture
Annual Report for FY 1959

A. Activities of the Subcommittee During Fiscal Year.

1. Review of the Intelligence Product in the Subcommittee's Field of Competence.

During FY 1959 the Subcommittee completed its review of EIC-P-12, "Policies, Performance, and Prospects of Soviet Agriculture." The Chairman of the EIC noted that the research and writing of the report had been done almost entirely within CIA/ORR, the Subcommittee participation being mainly that of review and comment on progressive drafts. It was therefore proposed that the report be published as a CIA/ORR report with a Foreword indicating EIC review and comments. This procedure was approved. The report was published in May 1959 (CIA/RR59-15) and has been distributed.

2. Research and Collection Deficiencies.

a. Research Deficiencies

The Subcommittee will review its statements of Priority Deficiencies of Research early in FY 1960. The publication of CIA/RR 59-15 (formerly EIC-P-12), the publication of a considerable amount of information by the Soviet Union, and the extravagant Chinese agricultural claims, have resulted in important changes in the gaps in intelligence.

b. Collection Deficiencies.

1. The Subcommittee has reviewed statements prepared by CIA/ORR on priority gaps in intelligence on agriculture in the Soviet Union and Rumania. The subcommittee has pointed out that the gaps in intelligence statement on Soviet Agriculture (prepared in December 1958) has already been outdated by information subsequently released by the Soviets, and that a new draft should be forthcoming. The subcommittee made a number of specific suggestions for revision of both of the statements prepared by ORR.

2. The Subcommittee has considered the feasibility of using these and other similar ORR statements as a basis for SC statements of priority collection deficiencies, and decided that these statements, after SC review and approval, will be appropriate statements of Priority Collection Deficiencies.

3. Review of Substantive Papers.

a. The only substantive papers reviewed during FY 1959 were drafts of EIC-P-12.

4. Review of Proposals for External Research.

The Subcommittee reviewed a proposed external research project, "Agricultural Land Utilization in Communist China." Subcommittee members were asked to take into consideration the recommendations of their EIC principals in submitting their comments. In all cases there was either favorable comment, or no comment, on the proposed external research project.

5. Maintenance of Agreed Basic Statistics

CIA/RS 59-15 (formerly EIC-P-12), contains many statistical series. Although the Subcommittee reviewed the drafts, the process of coordination did not produce concurrence on all points and estimates, but with the exceptions noted in the Foreword to the published report, did result in general agreement on the substance of the report.

6. Projects Undertaken at the Request of the EIC or Proposed to the EIC.

No new projects were requested by the EIC or proposed to the EIC by the Subcommittee.

7. Intelligence Research Techniques.

Informal discussions of research techniques have been held by some Subcommittee members in discussions of agricultural statistics, and in discussions of the use of weather information.

8. Special Coordination Functions of the Subcommittee.

Specialists from the Department of State, the Department of Agriculture, and CIA have regularly discussed the effects of weather on crop production in the bloc countries.

9. Evaluation of the Role of the Subcommittee.

Members of the Subcommittee feel that the Subcommittee has been effective as a medium for interagency review and coordin-

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ation, and as a mechanism for improving economic intelligence research within its field of interest. Nevertheless, it is felt that there is a definite need for closer and more frequent inter-agency collaboration on matters of mutual interest at the working level.

B. Future Program of the Subcommittee.

No changes in the structure or in the functioning of the Subcommittee on Agriculture are contemplated for FY 1960.

The Subcommittee should continue to identify gaps in research and collection, approve external research projects, serve as a coordinating body for all agencies and departments having responsibilities in food and agriculture, and serve as a clearing house for information and data on western countries which could be useful in appraising developments in the Sino-Soviet Bloc. The Subcommittee should also be alert to significant developments, activities and situations in the field of food and agriculture throughout the world.

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Chairman
EIC Subcommittee on Agriculture

Attachment A.

Progress Report on Priority Deficiencies of Research

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Control No. 490814
ASC-X-79

22 June 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Secretariat, Economic Intelligence Committee

FROM : Secretary, EIC Subcommittee on Agriculture

SUBJECT : EIC Subcommittee on Agriculture
Annual Report for FY 1959
(To Be Considered by the Subcommittee on Agriculture
at their meeting 19 June 1959)

A. Activities of the Subcommittee During Fiscal Year.

1. Review of the Intelligence Product in the Subcommittee's Field of Competence.

During FY 1959 the Subcommittee completed its review of EIC-P-12, "Policies, Performance, and Prospects of Soviet Agriculture." The Chairman of the EIC noted that the research and writing of the report had been done almost entirely within CIA/ORR, the Subcommittee participation being mainly that of review and comment on progressive drafts. It was therefore proposed that the report be published as a CIA/ORR report with a Foreword indicating EIC review and comments. This procedure was approved. The report was published in May 1959 (CIA/RR59-15) and has been distributed.

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b. Collection Deficiencies.

1. The Subcommittee has reviewed statements prepared by CIA/ORR on priority gaps in intelligence on agriculture in the Soviet Union and Rumania. The subcommittee has pointed out that the gaps in intelligence statement on Soviet Agriculture (prepared in December 1958) has already been outdated by information subsequently released by the Soviets.

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2. The Subcommittee has considered the feasibility of using these and other similar ORR statements as a basis for SC statements of priority collection deficiencies, and decided that these statements, after SC review and approval, will be appropriate statements of Priority Collection Deficiencies.

3. Review of Substantive Papers.

a. The only substantive papers reviewed during FY 1959 were drafts of EIC-P-12.

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Chairman
HIC Subcommittee on Agriculture

Attachment:

Minutes of Meeting of 9 December 1957